



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

3rd Session

9th Assembly

Official Report

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1980

Pages 437 to 471

Speaker: The Honourable Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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FROBISHER BAY, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1980

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. George Braden, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Curley, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Kilabuk, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. MacQuarrie, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Noah, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Sorensen, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. Tologanak, Hon. James Wah-Shee

Prayer

MR. ARNAITOK IPEELIE: (Inuktitut prayer).

FATHER TRINNEL: Let us pray. Almighty God, from Whom cometh all wisdom and power, we the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in session assembled, humbly beseech Thy blessing on our deliberations, to the end that, inspired by Thy divine wisdom, and setting aside all prejudices, private interests and partial affections, we may work to the benefit, welfare and happiness of the people, and to Thy glory. Amen.

Resignation Of Speaker

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Please be seated. Members of the Legislative Assembly, I have been asked to convey the following communication to you from R.H. MacQuarrie, Speaker of the Assembly.

"I would like to inform you and through you all Members of the Legislative Assembly that I am hereby giving notice of my intention to resign as Speaker. My resignation is to take effect from the time the Assembly chooses another Speaker but not later than the reopening of the third session in Frobisher Bay on October 22nd. I am resigning because I feel the need for more active participation in the Assembly's debates than the position of Speaker allows. I have considered it an honour to have served the Assembly as Speaker and a privilege to have been associated in day-to-day work with the Assembly staff. I therefore take this action with sincere regret. Yours sincerely, R.H. MacQuarrie, Speaker."

I have been asked by the Commissioner to inform this Assembly that he is not prepared to address it until a Speaker has been chosen. Is it therefore the wish of this House to proceed at this time with the election of Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Fraser.

Motion To Appoint Mr. Donald M. Stewart As Speaker, Carried

MR. FRASER: I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Yellowknife South that Mr. Donald M. Stewart of the electoral district of Hay River do take the chair of this House as Speaker.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): It has been moved by the hon. Member for Mackenzie Great Bear, seconded by the hon. Member for Yellowknife South, that Mr. Donald M. Stewart of the electoral district of Hay River do take the chair of this House as Speaker. Would all those...

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. I do not believe the sound system is working properly. We are not receiving anything.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Proceedings will have to be interrupted momentarily. There seems to be a break in the sound track system. Are you ready to vote?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Would all those in favour of the motion please indicate by raising their hands? Opposed? The motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

I therefore declare Mr. Donald M. Stewart, the hon. Member for Hay River, Speaker of this House.

---Applause

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Ladies and gentlemen, hon. Members, I take this opportunity to acknowledge to this Legislature the great honour you have conferred on me by choosing me to be your Speaker.

I am sure that no one could accuse me of being a traditionalist but after some 16 years in the political arena I find myself a student of tradition of a parliamentary system. The reluctance or resistance of a new Speaker to taking on his new obligations goes back to early traditions where the Speaker often finds himself between a rock and a hard place when he, on behalf of the House he served, had to tell the monarch of the day how the country was going to be run. This development did not please monarchs at that time, which meant of course, that Speakers were not very popular. In fact history records that some six Speakers were beheaded in the United Kingdom. Somebody with a sense of humour decided anyone who could get himself into so much trouble just by talking should be called the Speaker. I tell you this so you will understand my reluctance in coming to the chair. I am also sure that on many days during the course of this Assembly that many Members would like to revive the old beheading routine and many undoubtedly would volunteer to wield the axe. I am thankful therefore that this method of handling Speakers is no longer in vogue.

Rights And Privileges Of Elected Representatives

My first obligation on our behalf this afternoon is to demand the rights and privileges required to carry out our business as elected representatives; freedom of speech in this Assembly, freedom from interference in carrying out our business on behalf of the electors of the Northwest Territories. There is much work to be done in the life of this Assembly and with your help and by consensus we will be able to accomplish a great deal. My ability to preside over this Assembly always rests in your hands and if I lose your good will and confidence I shall not be able to preside. With these words I thank you again for the confidence you have placed in me.

Recognition Of Honoured Guests

This afternoon we have with us in the Speaker's gallery -- I wonder if the people will stand as I call their names. Mr. Keith Penner, Member of Parliament who is chairman of the House of Commons standing committee of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, executive committee of the Canadian branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Mr. Penner.

Mr. Simonie Michael. In 1966 he became the first Inuk elected to the Territorial Council. Since 1970 he has been active in local and regional politics. Mr. Michael. He is not with us.

Mr. Malcolm Farrow, the principal and member of the Gordon Robertson Education Centre staff since 1971, appointed principal in 1977. Mr. Farrow.

Mr. Neil Shupe, director of the student council, whose father is an RCMP member and Commissioner's aide-de-camp. Mr. Shupe.

Mr. Alex Attungala, GREC student council vice president, originally from Baker Lake.

Harry Kilabuk, Frobisher Bay town councillor, served on settlement, hamlet, village and now town council at various times since the establishment of municipal government in Frobisher Bay.

Davidee Atagooyuk -- I am sorry, I have difficulty with some of the Inuit names but I will learn if I am given a chance -- has worked at GREC since 1972; member of the board of directors of the legal aid society and Frobisher Bay social services committee and member of the juvenile court committee.

---Applause

I understand that another thing has been very highly recommended to me, the fire department. Some of the claims got pretty far out and I think what I am going to do is to challenge the Frobisher Bay volunteer fire department by having a Hay River contest take place sometime next summer as soon as we can arrange it. I have a list of the names and in these circumstances we always use -- I am sorry, I mislaid the names of the members of the fire department but any community is always recognized in part by a good volunteer brigade and I understand the Frobisher Bay volunteer fire brigade is a very good one. That basically concludes the opening remarks that I wish to make at this time. Mr. Clerk, is the Commissioner available? Mr. Clerk, you have in your hands an appointment of a new Member to this House?

Mr. Kilabuk Elected For Baffin Central

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Mr. Speaker, I have a communication from the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada with regards to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and it reads: "This is to certify that pursuant to an order dated on the 14th day of July, 1980 and addressed to James A. Currie of Broughton Island in the Northwest Territories for the election of a Member to serve on the Council of the Northwest Territories for the electoral district of Baffin Central, Ipeelee Kilabuk, hunter, Pangnirtung, Northwest Territories, has been returned as elected." And it is signed Jean-Marc Hamel, Chief Electoral Officer.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: We are pleased to welcome you back, Mr. Kilabuk. I have a note here that I have difficulty reading, with regard to the Member of Parliament for the Eastern Arctic, Mr. Ittinuar.

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain whether the Commissioner is available?

ITEM NO. 1: COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, I would like to warmly welcome all Members of the Legislature to the resumption of this, the third session of the Ninth Assembly. In particular I would like to welcome and congratulate Ipeelee Kilabuk on his return to this House as a result of winning the recent by-election in the Baffin Central constituency. Mr. Kilabuk was a valued Member of the Eighth Assembly and I am sure that all Members will share my feeling of pleasure at having him back in his seat.

Mr. Stewart, I congratulate you on having been chosen by the Members of this House to be their Speaker. You bring to your post an impressive record of service and accomplishments as a municipal leader and as a long-time Member of this Legislative Assembly. I know that through your wise counsel and great knowledge of this institution, you will serve this House with distinction. I extend my thanks for a job well done and best wishes for continued service as a Member to the retiring Speaker, Mr. Robert MacQuarrie.

I would particularly like to extend a welcome to the residents of Frobisher Bay who are able to be present this afternoon, and also to any of you who have come in from other communities. The Legislature is meeting here because Members recognize how important it is for the people they represent and serve to see their Assembly in action from time to time. In addition, this session will provide an opportunity for personal contacts and informal discussions between people of this area and Members from all constituencies across the Northwest Territories. These kinds of exchanges serve to enhance our understanding of each other's views and positions on a wide range of subjects. In a land so broad and diverse, such exchanges are essential to the governing process. Admittedly there are additional costs associated with meeting away from Yellowknife, but it is my view that the benefits derived exceed those costs. We have already enjoyed a warm welcome on our arrival in Frobisher Bay and we look forward to meeting personally with as many of you as possible during our stay here. I hope that residents will join us in the visitors' gallery each day and listen to the deliberations which will take place here on matters of vital concern to all the people of the Territories.

Explanation Of Continuation Of Session

Perhaps I should give a few words of explanation about this session, particularly for those people who have joined us in the gallery today. This is not the start of a new session but rather a continuation of the session which opened last spring in Baker Lake. Under these circumstances there would not normally have been a Commissioner's opening Address. However, as a result of a motion passed in Baker Lake, I have been given the opportunity of making these remarks today and am very pleased to do so on behalf of the Executive Committee. We are thus able to demonstrate to you how the process normally works. By tradition, and by the Rules of this House, after the Commissioner has given his Address each Member is entitled to speak in reply, and in their replies Members can raise any matters that are of concern to them or to their constituents.

Activities Since Baker Lake Session

Your Ministers have been active in many areas during the months since this House met in Baker Lake. One matter on which they had received advice from the Legislature was that they should see how problems similar to those in the Northwest Territories are being dealt with in other jurisdictions. They therefore spent a week in Newfoundland and Labrador, a province which, with its scattered population, limited economic base, and major resource potential, probably has more in common with the Northwest Territories than any other. They had discussions with many of the provincial government's senior people and observed programs and projects in a number of the outlying communities.

Two Ministers attended the September First Ministers' Conference in Ottawa with regard to changes in the constitution of Canada. Their presence there as independent observers represents a significant change from previous conferences, where the only involvement allowed was as members of the federal delegation.

Submissions in regard to the proposed oil pipeline from Norman Wells have been made to the Environmental Assessment Review Panel and to the National Energy Board. In response to recommendations from Members of this Assembly, arrangements have been made to establish a separate Central Arctic region with headquarters in Cambridge Bay. This change will be effective at the beginning of April next year. Agreement has been reached to transfer responsibility for mine safety from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to the Government of the Northwest Territories. Negotiations with the federal government have continued with a view to having this government take over the provision of health care services on a contractual basis.

Preparation Of Budget

Preparation of the 1981-82 budget has been a major effort during the recent period. I need not tell anyone here that we are living in a period of high inflation. However it is also a period in which Canada as a whole is required to limit government spending. We are dealing with programs which provide vital services to people and for which the needs are great. Although financial negotiations have not yet been concluded and the amount of our deficit grant has not been determined, indications are that we will have difficulty meeting many of our program funding needs. We feel that we must take action in the area of assistance to hunters and trappers even if it means cutting back in some other area and therefore, as announced recently, an enhanced program of assistance will be introduced. The Minister of Renewable Resources may well refer to this program during the session.

Turning to another subject entirely, I am pleased to announce that the Anglican Church in Fort Norman, which was built by Alan Hardisty in 1880, has been formally designated as an historic site. This will help to ensure preservation of this interesting old building.

Distinguished Visitors To The N.W.T.

The Northwest Territories was privileged to host a number of distinguished visitors during the summer. The Governor General, in company with members of his family, made two visits, and it is worth noting that Their Excellencies met freely and informally with local residents at public receptions in seven communities. In late September, the Prime Minister spent a week travelling up through the Mackenzie, into the Arctic Islands, and down to Pangnirtung and the beautiful Auyuittuq National Park. The Hon. Yvon Pinard, president of the privy council of Canada, came north and read a proclamation here in Frobisher Bay marking the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the Arctic Islands to Canada, and he stayed to visit a variety of places in the Eastern Arctic. The Hon. Jean-Jacques Blais, Minister of Supply and Services, visited Yellowknife with his family. The Hon. John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, of course continues to be a regular visitor. Provincial governments were also well represented, with Ministers from Alberta, Manitoba and Newfoundland travelling extensively within the Territories. Their knowledge and understanding of our problems and solutions will serve us well in future federal-provincial meetings.

Business Of The Session

The report of the unity committee and a discussion of the Nunavut proposal will be major matters for discussion and consideration at this session of the Legislature. It is my expectation, and that of my Ministers, that these subjects will be debated in an atmosphere of harmony and good will, with the long-term benefits and concerns of all territorial residents uppermost in our minds. A number of matters will be placed before you in relation to the ongoing business of government.

Two sessional papers remain on the order paper from Baker Lake. One of these relates to the proposed police advisory committee, and the Executive Committee hopes that your deliberations will lead to further direction from this Assembly on the question of police services in the Territories. The second relates to training in renewable resource management and suggests a way in which students could receive most of their training on the job with only relatively short periods in a formal setting.

The Executive Committee proposes to introduce bills establishing two new ordinances and amending 14 existing ones. New legislation will provide for the establishment in law of the Baffin Regional Council, and for recognition of ophthalmic medical assistants. Amendments will be introduced to a variety of ordinances relating to legal matters and to commercial transactions, as well as to the Corrections Ordinance, the Council Retiring Allowances Ordinance, the Fair Practices Ordinance, the Co-operative Associations Ordinance, the Municipal Ordinance, and the Workers' Compensation Ordinance. A sessional paper will be introduced on the question of political activities of territorial public servants. I now commend to your earnest consideration and wise judgment the business of this House. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. I will now turn to the orders of the day.

Item 2, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM NO. 2: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 3-80(2): Baffin Regional Council Ordinance

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 3-80(2), An Ordinance to Incorporate the Baffin Regional Council, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, there seems to be some interference in here and it is very hard to hear what you are saying and we cannot hear what the Member just said. Either you are not close enough to the mike or something is the trouble and it is very hard to hear, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Is that better?

MR. FRASER: That is better.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other notices of motion for first reading of bills?
Mr. Braden,

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 20-80(2): Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1980-81

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you very much. Assuming that the House is familiar with what Mr. Wah-Shee just introduced, I give notice on behalf of the Executive Committee and the Commissioner that on Thursday, October 23rd, I shall move that Bill 20-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1980-81, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any other notices of motion for first reading of bills? Mr. Braden.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 21-80(2): Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 2, 1980-1981

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I give notice on behalf of the Commissioner and the Executive Committee that on Thursday, October 23rd 1980, I shall move that Bill 21-80(2), An Ordinance Respecting Additional Expenditures for the Public Service for the Current Financial Year, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any other notices of motion for first reading of bills? Mr. McCallum.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 4-80(2): Ophthalmic Medical Assistants Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 4-80(2), An Ordinance Respecting Ophthalmic Medical Assistants, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further notices of motion on first reading of bills? The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 5-80(2): Legal Questions Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 5-80(2), An Ordinance Respecting the Resolution of Legal Questions, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further notices of motion? The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 6-80(2): Judicature Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 6-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Judicature Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further notices of motion for first reading of bills? The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 7-80(2): Maintenance Orders (Facilities For Enforcement) Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd 1980, I shall move that Bill 7-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 8-80(2): Conditional Sales Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 8-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Conditional Sales Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 9-80(2): Bills Of Sale Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 9-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Bills of Sale Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 10-80(2): Assignment Of Book Debts Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 10-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Assignment of Book Debts Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. McCallum.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 11-80(2): Corrections Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 11-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Corrections Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 12-80(2): Corporation Securities Registration Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 12-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Corporation Securities Registration Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 13-80(2): Council Retiring Allowances Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 13-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Council Retiring Allowances Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 14-80(2): Securities Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 14-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Securities Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 15-80(2): Fair Practices Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 15-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Fair Practices Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 16-80(2): Agisters And Livery Stable Keepers Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 16-80(2), An Ordinance to Repeal the Agisters and Livery Stable Keepers Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Hon. Mr. Braden.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 17-80(2): Co-operative Associations Ordinance

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 17-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Co-operative Associations Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 18-80(2): Municipal Ordinance

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 18-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Hon. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 19-80(2): Workers' Compensation Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23rd, 1980, I shall move that Bill 19-80(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Workers' Compensation Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further notices of motion for first reading of bills?

We will go on to Item 3, tabling of documents. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a document here, it is a petition, I guess, and perhaps I could table it under petitions. Which would be appropriate?

MR. SPEAKER: Probably it would be better if we did it under Item 7, petitions.

Item 4, replies to the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM NO. 4: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Mr. Patterson's Reply

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I first congratulate you on your appointment. I am sure you will be fair and efficient. I am very happy to welcome the Members of the Assembly and the Assembly's staff here to Frobisher Bay, my town, my home. I know for those of you who are working here and for those of you who are away from home, it is a long way from home, but now you know what it is like for those of us who live in Baffin Island who have to travel a long way to attend meetings in Yellowknife and to be away from home for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that through careful deliberations we may be able to solve that kind of problem in the near future by creating smaller territories so that we will not have to solve these terrible problems of distance. It may well be, Mr. Speaker, that in the not too distant future those of us who are on this side of the House may be forming a new council for a new territory and none of us will have to travel a long way from home to do the business of government.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: May I welcome especially the newcomers to Frobisher Bay. I am proud of this town, we are proud to live here, we are proud of especially some of the innovations in Frobisher Bay. We have in Frobisher Bay the Baffin Correctional Centre, Ikajukatuvik, which is designed especially for Inuit inmates.

It has a staff of respected community members who teach traditional skills and traditional ways so that young offenders can find a new sense of worth and inform themselves. Ikajukatuvik Correctional Centre is the first centre to train and employ native paralegals and staff by a board of directors. Nunatsiaqmiut is a television production centre in Frobisher Bay which has been producing programs in Inuktitut for the CBC for three years now. Currently Frobisher Bay is the base for the exciting Inukshuk television project which we hope will lead to a new television broadcasting system in the Northwest Territories. We have an Amaroq hunters' and trappers' country food store operated by our active local native and hunters' and trappers' association which sells country foods for those of you who may prefer that. We have a bilingual regional newspaper, the Nunatsiaq News, a lively regional radio station here where we are proud to say there is a balance between, a fair balance between Inuktitut programming and English programming and we even have some programs in the French language, perhaps not enough because there is a significant population of francophones in Frobisher Bay.

Organizations In Frobisher Bay

We are also proud of the jewelry and handicraft made in Frobisher Bay and our fine sculptors. We have a very important group in Frobisher Bay called the Quinnuayooaq society which has made it its business to preserve and protect and enhance the Inuit culture. It operates a school in Frobisher Bay and makes many other contributions to the community. In addition to the volunteer fire department, we have a very active search and rescue society operated by dedicated local people who use their own equipment and are on standby all hours of the year to rescue anybody lost on the land. Every year we have an annual spring festival called Toonik Tyme which draws visitors from all over the world and tonight I hope to welcome all of you here to a feast here at the school where we will have a chance to meet the friendly people of Frobisher Bay.

I am also proud of Frobisher Bay, Mr. Speaker, because I think we have tried our best to produce innovations to meet the special problems we have here. We have here the headquarters for the Baffin Regional Council which has tried hard to make the remote government more responsive to the people of their special needs in the Eastern Arctic, and soon to be discussed in this Assembly. Our village council which successfully became a town recently and it has with some difficulty I think over the last two years had the conviction to persuade the Government of the Northwest Territories to turn over social services and that agreement is about to be finalized.

In 1976 we petitioned from the Commissioner and successfully persuaded him that it would be in the best interest of the people in Frobisher Bay to close the liquor store here to over-the-counter sales, a move which nobody seriously regrets today. The community schools, social and recreational activities, and it is set in a rich hunting area, hunting feeds a large number of our people. We have three permanent outpost camps in Frobisher Bay and I hope the Members of this Assembly while they are here will be able to visit one of those outpost camps. Also, I hope you will be able to see the housing progress in construction projects that are going on in Frobisher Bay which are employing 25 locally trained people and they are putting up houses just as fast as the imported labour that we have suffered with over the years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: They are doing it just as rapidly.

Problem Of Owning One's Home In Frobisher

But there are problems in Frobisher Bay, Mr. Speaker, and let me address briefly the local issues and then try to suggest some solutions that I see which will be of special concern to this House. One of our problems that we have been struggling with, particularly recently, is the problem of transients. The Inuit people are not transients but the people who come to take important positions in Frobisher Bay, many of them tend to use Frobisher Bay as a stepping stone to greater things and they move on. This causes problems. We want to encourage people to stay in this attractive town. Unfortunately, our government policy today seems to be discouraging people from staying. Now, the non-Inuit particularly like -- if they are going to settle in a place -- to have their own house. However, locally in Frobisher Bay, a place which is supposed to encourage home ownership and although it is a tax based municipality, we are having a great deal of difficulty persuading people that they should build homes here.

The reason it is difficult to persuade them to build homes here is because everyone who builds his home here is out of his mind at the moment. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that currently available lots are on serviced land, the land is controlled from Yellowknife, the land assembly projects and the public water and sewer projects are controlled by Local Government in Yellowknife and these projects have sent the cost of leasing land and the rate of taxation in Frobisher Bay soaring to unbelievable heights. Our mill rate is already the highest in the Northwest Territories. This year many people's taxes have increased four times and more because indirectly through increased assessments they are paying for projects which are so-called improvements but which the people of Frobisher Bay have not really controlled or planned or initiated from the beginning. House building locally privately is at a virtual standstill. It is cheaper for a civil servant, even a civil servant who wants to build his own home, to pay subsidized rents and live in government housing than to build his own home, much cheaper.

Answers Sought For Ratepayers

It has got so bad, Mr. Speaker, as you already know, that ratepayers of Frobisher Bay have petitioned the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and have asked him to take drastic action. The Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee has replied to pleas from ratepayers and promised that there will be a freeze on leasehold rentals at the current rate. That is not nearly enough, Mr. Speaker, and I am looking forward to getting some very solid answers from Mr. Wah-Shee in the course of this session as to what they intend to do about the very serious problems, barriers to home ownership in Frobisher Bay.

By pushing the utilidor project ahead, and there are more plans next year and we have already done two phases in the year before last, we are really threatening the possibility of self-sufficiency in Frobisher Bay. I would like to know from Mr. Wah-Shee how many jobs this project is going to cost, how the government is going to look after the problems of home owners who perhaps indirectly pay for these projects. In Baker Lake we asked for tax relief for home owners in Nunavut and we are going to be looking for answers at this session, Mr. Speaker.

I will say something else. The engineers and planners do not seem to know what they are doing. This is a very cold place with special problems. The utilidor system which is costing millions does not seem to be working. It had to be dug up last winter. Fire hydrants do not work. The lagoon at the other end of the utilidor does not work. The macerator which is supposed to grind up the sewage and make it more palatable to the environment does not work. We are breaking Northwest Territories Water Board regulations in Frobisher Bay. You cannot eat clams in Frobisher Bay anymore without boiling them.

Garbage; Prince Philip visited Frobisher Bay and remarked that it might be the garbage capital of Canada. When I was first elected just over a year ago I learned from the former chief engineer for the government in the Department of Local Government that the garbage problem in Frobisher Bay would be solved. An incinerator had been designed which would actually burn fuel which would heat the federal building and provide lower heating costs for the federal building. A design was backed by a study. Now we have a new engineer, Mr. Speaker, who says the study was wrong. The incinerator must be shelved. The macerator design was wrong, even though we paid the original designer to come back and try and make it work. No luck. Now we have the dump facing our harbour, honeybags and garbage, it flows into town, it is an eyesore and it fouls the sea.

Water And Sewer Projects Costly

We have spent millions on various types of water and sewer projects which are making the ratepayers very unhappy and costing local people much needed jobs. When is somebody going to start worrying about the garbage that is piling up in Frobisher Bay? It started back in the 1940's when the Americans came here and dumped oil drums when they left the base, they dumped trucks and vehicles and they left several dumps in Frobisher Bay which are wasting away. We do not seem to have any control over deciding what priorities should be in this town and it is time that Local Government started giving us satisfaction and I am confident that we will get some answers from Mr. Wah-Shee and his colleagues here and I want him to know that the taxpayers in Frobisher Bay have reached the point of exasperation.

You know, Mr. Speaker, this problem of lack of control over our own affairs has resulted in some horrendous mistakes. The high-rise complex in Frobisher Bay was a huge mistake. It is costly to heat. It caused a great deal of crime by its concentration of population and by its encouraging vagrancy and vandalism. Happily our Hudson's Bay store has decided to relocate outside the mall and maybe somehow we will be able to dismantle that complex in some way.

Control Of Capital Planning

Now, Mr. Speaker, we also have a problem having any control over capital planning in Frobisher Bay. The heavy hand of Yellowknife is still writ in anything even the local council tries to do. They still have control over our land. They have ultimate control over most of the money that is spent on capital projects. They seem infatuated with outside experts to build, maintain, design and these projects cost millions, but the local community in Frobisher Bay presents simple requests to the local council and as we will in this session to this Assembly for small neighbourhood community halls, Inuktitut Tinquarkvik, the traditional meeting places long before Frobisher Bay became developed to the stage it is, places for dancing, local meetings, social gatherings, meeting together, neighbourhood centres. Money cannot be found. They are told that they must renovate old buildings. This is not really appropriate and I am going to be asking for support from this Assembly for recognizing that sometimes the requests that come from the Inuit do not fit in existing programs, do not fit in the Department of Public Works programs. They may be an insult to an architect because the project is so simple, but things do not have to fit into a program to be things that will work.

The Quinnuayooaq Society School exists now because it is being funded by federal programs as a way of preventing juvenile delinquency. It is a school for those children who, despite all the efforts of our educators, cannot fit into the existing school system with its emphasis on academics. However, it is much more than a school, it is recreation, it is child welfare, it is an education in survival on the land and a life. Where else could you learn how to read the weather in the Inuktitut ways and respect for parents in the traditional ways, Inuit legends as parables and methods of living? How to skin an animal for various uses. Mr. Speaker, this school will run out of federal funds this summer and will the territorial government, I want to know, be able to continue this school when funds run out? No one in the Government of the Northwest Territories wants to admit it exists because it is hard to fit in to a particular program. It may be social services, it may be corrections, it may be education but we have got to find a place for these things because they are important to a segment of our community.

Disposal Of Mine Wastes

Now, I would like to briefly address the few other concerns, Mr. Speaker, of mine. I am very much looking forward to the report of the Science Advisory Board this session as requested on the possible dangers of uranium mining and exploration. I know from my own studies that this mining produces very hazardous tailings or wastes, and the resultant radiation, some of it gaseous and some of it in the form of solids, causes cancer, birth defects and, most seriously, it will spread very easily in the Arctic environment by natural dispersal and through caribou and the food chain. I understand there are at present no regulations in Canada on the disposal of these tailings which result from mining, because there may be no safe way to dispose of them. This is a matter of great concern to me and my colleagues who live in the Keewatin which is now crawling with uranium explorers, and I very much look forward to that report because I think we need good advice at this point in time before we threaten our future generations with possible deadly poison.

I am a Member of this special committee on education, Mr. Speaker, and I urge Members to take our report seriously. We are going to recommend immediate relief for students who need it, and I urge that we take action at this session.

Mr. Speaker, some of these problems that I have addressed with regard to my own constituency, which is so far away from the western capital, can be solved. Now, some people say that the proposal for a Nunavut territory is an implied criticism of the present system, but this is not a denunciation of the present system, we are asking or proposing a territorial form of government. This is giving credit to what has been done by the existing territorial government despite these impossible burdens of distance. We are not asking for a new school system, or for an Inuit government or for an ethnic parliament or a new structure, a new structure for government, we are asking for the same public territorial form of government that all of us understand quite well.

English Language In Present Government

Now, many people feel, I know, Mr. Speaker, that we must wait until our own communities fully understand the proposal for a new territory. However, Mr. Speaker, particularly in this part of the world they do not understand the government very well now. One of the reasons is that in spite of the efforts of our interpreters and efforts at translating materials, this is a government that operates in English. The Nunavut territory, its first language will be Inuktitut and the Nunavut territory would be able to have

ministers and senior policy makers who do not necessarily speak the English language. Now, the present problem at present, Mr. Speaker, is that being an English language government, the Government of the Northwest Territories has worsened the generation gap between old and young because the only people who can successfully participate in our present government structure are the young bilingual people and the elders and respected people of our community who have the most wisdom, and the most to contribute are, at present, shut out. A Nunavut territorial government would welcome their participation.

Mr. Speaker, not to say that the Nunavut government or the Nunavut territory would not heavily rely on the expertise of civil servants and would not be afraid to rely on the wisdom of our present civil service. I do not see a big change in that area. The civil servants will continue to run the day-to-day business of government. They would be given strong incentives to learn to communicate in Inuktitut. The big difference, Mr. Speaker, would be that the people who are in high places who are changed, would be those who speak Inuktitut and understand best the needs of their constituents. For the first time the most important boards and committees which sit in the Northwest Territories would be able to welcome the participation of people who might not speak English. I think the interpreters would find it a lot easier too, because they would not be struggling with the terrible problem of communicating the English language and the English technological concepts to their fellow Inuit, instead they would have a more inspiring job of communicating the words of the Inuit to persons who are going to be hired to carry out their wishes. This I think would be a startling change and would result in much more responsive government.

Priorities Of Nunavut Government

The Nunavut territorial government would also have different priorities. It would have the same responsibilities of course, Mr. Speaker, as the present government, but it would pay more attention to areas such as fish and wildlife which are more important to the people of this territory than many other things. Fish and wildlife would no longer have such a low budget, they would no longer be starved for money to do its work. I would like to say at the beginning, Mr. Speaker, that many see its issue of Nunavut as a very complicated issue. This is because many people think and make the mistake in confusing the idea of a new Nunavut territory with land claims. The ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada has made complicated land claims proposals which is sometimes called Nunavut but this Assembly cannot solve or deal with the land claims issue. It is a matter between the federal government and the Inuit. All I am suggesting we should do is support one small part of that land claim which calls for the creation of a new territory and eventually a new province called Nunavut, but let us be careful not to confuse the simple question of dividing the Territories to make it a more workable government unit and the complicated question of land claims. The division of the Northwest Territories is a simple question and I am going to suggest during this session, Mr. Speaker, that as Members of the territorial Assembly, we are well equipped to decide on that question now because we understand that government perhaps better than many.

Mr. Speaker, many will also say the answer is not to divide the Northwest Territories, the answer is to provide more powers to the regions. We have tried hard at this in the Baffin region. The Baffin Regional Council has done a great deal to advise its regional government and seems to have made a start at participating in the capital planning process. After two years the village council of Frobisher Bay concluded a contract with the territorial government and the new Baffin Regional Council Ordinance will permit the Baffin Regional Council to sign similar contracts to gain powers piece by piece, little by little, but this is a complicated and time consuming

process, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Nerysoo, started talks leading to the devolution of wildlife management last spring and I was happy to participate, but I can see that the end result of that process will take years and it will take complicated contractual arrangements that even a lawyer -- if even a lawyer -- can understand.

Cautious Approach To Devolution

I am suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that this could all happen so easily and at once if we simply divided the Northwest Territories and brought the territorial government closer to the people who we are trying to devolve powers to, because devolution first of all seems to be something that civil servants are very cautious about working towards; in spite of a massive publicity program and a special task force on devolution introduced by Commissioner Hodgson. Frobisher Bay and Fort Liard are about the only real working examples of devolution in the transfer of social services and progress in other areas has been minimal.

Also, devolution causes tremendous problems because we believe that government programs must apply equally to everyone in the Northwest Territories and devolution creates inequality, critics say. The better thing to do, instead of worrying about providing equal services to all the various different parts of the Northwest Territories with their different geography and different peoples, is to create a homogeneous territory where government services can be provided equally because people have the same views, they live in the same geographical area.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government is waiting on us. In the early 1960's the territorial Council decided that division of the Territories would be a good idea and it was felt at that time there should be a new territory called Mackenzie, and that this territory in this part of the world would be called Nunatsiaq. In 1962 the federal government prepared a bill to create those new territories. Then, the government changed the next year and the new government reintroduced that bill. We do not have to worry about the federal government looking to us, what I think we have to worry about is having the courage ourselves to make the decision now. Now, it is a hard decision to make, Mr. Speaker, but I say that Members of territorial Assembly, we are elected as leaders and we are now ready to make a decision.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

Strength Of Unity In Separate Territory

MR. PATTERSON: Let us MLA's now say where we stand. If the Northwest Territories should stay together as one, tell us why. I have yet to hear why the Northwest Territories should stay together. Some say that we need the numbers, we cannot have a clout with Ottawa to make Ottawa move. Mr. Speaker, the richest province, Alberta, with over two million residents has no particular clout with Ottawa. What is an extra few thousand people going to do for us? I would say instead, Mr. Speaker, that in fact we will have more clout as a separate territory because we will be united within those territories. We will have the strength of solidarity and unity.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON: We will also be more powerful if the Northwest Territories are divided and I hope this is going to take place with a co-operative and harmonious and reasonable debate involving the public, if that occurs. Mr. Speaker, we will be able to co-operate and we will in fact have to co-operate to protect the interests of northerners in all of Canada. If we go with the Yukon Territory as our present government has done we will co-operate with the new territory or territories. This is not an angry move, although one based on frustration. It is one based on good sense and better government.

Mr. Speaker, I would propose that at this session in Frobisher Bay we only make a decision in principle. This will not be a final decision. By decision in principle I mean declaring that division is the direction in which we want to head. If we open the way to public consultation, it will open the way to the preparation of an action plan. After all, Mr. Speaker, there are some important questions that we must answer. Where will the new boundary be? We will have to discuss that question with the people of the Dene Nation. We will have to discuss that with the people of the western territory. We will have to discuss financial arrangements with the federal government. We will have to work on figuring out what the new Nunavut territorial council will look like, how many members there will be. These questions will take time to study, but I would like to start that work after this session in Frobisher Bay and I think the only way that we can start that work now is by making a decision in principle now.

Mr. Speaker, that work, that challenge of preparing a plan for the new territory to be called Nunavut would be a very good reason for Members of the Eastern Arctic caucus to join the Executive Committee.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

Position Of Government On Division

MR. PATTERSON: After all, Mr. Speaker, if we can have the courage to make a decision now, subject to consultation with the people and a referendum if it appears that it is necessary, if we have the courage to make that decision now, then we will be telling the Executive Committee a new policy for political development in the Northwest Territories. The Hon. Mr. Braden and the Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee spoke at the ITC annual general assembly which I attended and they said the Government of the Northwest Territories does not have a position on the division of the Northwest Territories. I was somewhat surprised they do not have a position but I welcome that because it means that this Assembly here in Frobisher Bay can give them a position. If they decide that the principle of division is fair and just and sensible, then the Executive Committee will need the help of MLA's from the Eastern Arctic because the people of our region have to be consulted too and someone has to speak for the needs of the people of our region. I see a Minister, if his responsibilities were preparation for division, perhaps a Minister for Nunavut, who would work very closely with Mr. Wah-Shee to plan and discuss publicly and otherwise such important matters as boundaries, timing, a referendum.

I am going to propose, Mr. Speaker, after the unity committee debate that we should now make a decision in principle on division. I will go further on that motion to make a suggestion there be public consultation before a final decision is made -- back to this Assembly and made by this Assembly and that the two presently vacant seats on the Executive Committee be filled here in Frobisher Bay by representatives of the Eastern Arctic caucus or others but I would suggest the Eastern Arctic caucus should be represented.

---Applause

Then we will have a reason to participate in the exciting work ahead. I am looking forward to the unity committee debate and I am looking forward to coming to grips with the issue.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

ITC Presentation

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the ITC annual general meeting presented to those of us who attended a very strong request for action and I will table the resolution that they passed along with the resolution passed unanimously by the delegates at the annual general meeting to you later, but a point I wish to draw

Members' attention to now is that at the annual general meeting they urged that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories be called upon to declare its support in principle for the creation of a Nunavut territory that has its own territorial government and that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories be called upon to make such declaration in support at its upcoming session at Frobisher Bay, Nunavut, scheduled to commence on October 22nd, 1980. The Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs was there and he said he was very happy with the ITC motion because it was a commitment to Canada, a commitment to federalism and it was a commitment to public government along the lines of the territorial model. The Minister of Northern Affairs also announced that deliberations of this Assembly will have an important impact on what the federal government decides. We cannot afford not to make a decision at this time, Mr. Speaker. I think that the western part of the Territories is anxious that the matter be settled as well.

Differences Between East And West

If I may briefly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote an editorial from the Yellowknifer and the editorial prompted the writer to quote Kipling: "East is east and west is west and never the twain shall meet, but there is neither east nor west nor border nor breed nor birth when two strong men stand face to face when they come from the ends of the earth." I go on to quote: "It may not be quite what Kipling had in mind but we do not believe territorial unity has ever existed to a significant degree. The differences between east and west have been too great. Language, culture and lifestyles are very different. Communications and transportation have tended to be north and south. Despite the best and most sincere efforts of many Yellowknife based administrators few have successfully crossed the barriers. There is much to be said for the establishment of Nunavut as a separate territory where the people of the East are involved directly in governing themselves. Not until the day when two strong and separate territories stand face to face will we achieve any degree of unity but when we do our attention will be placed on our common concerns and less on our differences. Only then will occasions arise when there is no east nor west." I hope to see that day in my life in my first term as a Member of the Assembly.

---Laughter

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, if I may continue on, with the strong, active position and I hope we will be given an opportunity to address this Assembly during this debate. I know other Members of Parliament would support the idea, particularly if this Assembly were to make a decision.

MR. FRASER: Coffee time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, I do not like to interrupt you but the hour is 4:05 p.m. It is time for coffee break. If you are just about finished, we will let you conclude. If not, we will recess for 15 minutes.

MR. PATTERSON: I was just about to finish, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Please finish then.

MR. PATTERSON: I just wanted to say in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that one very important reason why the principle of division should be decided now, and why it should be advanced to the federal government is that if you can make the decision on the principle of division, and I believe this decision would be accepted by the current federal government, given the urgency of the land claims question, given their apparent agreement with the idea, if we can agree to make the federal government to accept that change then they would be accepting the principle of political change in the Northwest Territories and that would mean a provincial status we all ultimately seek. The creation of a Nunavut territory would be just a beginning. It is a simple step, it is the right step, now is the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. The hour being 4:07 we will recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the Assembly back to order. Now, returning to replies to the Commissioner's Address, I would start out with a couple of wires and some information I would like to read into the record for you.

Telegrams From Ottawa

The following is addressed to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, Frobisher Bay. "Unfortunately, duties in Ottawa prevent my attendance of the opening of the fall session of the Legislative Assembly. May I wish you every success in your deliberations to the end that the people of the Northwest Territories may be well served by their elected representatives." Signed Dave Nickerson, MP, Western Arctic.

The second telegram is addressed to the Speaker of the Assembly, Frobisher Bay. "Deeply regret we are unable to attend the opening session due to important votes in the House. We must remain in Ottawa. Although we are not present, my special assistant, Northwest Territories' Kit Spence, will be there. Good luck and best wishes." Signed, the Hon. John C. Munro, Minister, and Raymond Chénier, MP, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

We have also had a communication from Ms. Cournoyea to advise that she regrets she is unable to arrive but we can expect to see her in the not too distant future. Mr. Sayine due to airline problems, was not able to make a connection for the trip over on Tuesday and he will be here as soon as he possibly can. The Hon. Mr. Braden.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a point of privilege, I wish to inform the House of an error in notices of motion for first reading of bills that were read in under Item 2. The government failed to give 48 hours notice as required under the House Rules and it wishes to inform the House that notices of motion dated for presentation on Thursday, October 23rd should have read Friday, October 24th. This is in accordance with the Rules outlined in Rule 42 section (1). Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr. Braden. I should have picked that up but we will get back into the swing of things shortly. We will take that then as a change if there are no objections. Is there any objection? Fine, then we will go back to the orders of the day and we were on replies to the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Pudluk.

Mr. Pudluk's Reply

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have that much to say at this time but I am very happy that we could meet here. I am very happy with our new Speaker and I congratulate the Speaker who was just elected today. I will not make my speech a long one but the last time we spoke, I did not reply before. This is my first reply to the Commissioner's Address and I felt at that time to be able to say more and give more preparation to what I would like to reply and the main elected Members this will give them a chance to speak out. I know when you first get elected and the first time you want to speak, and I realize now with regard to the Commissioner's Address, it is an opening Address and many will go on and on and talk but no action be taken from that. For this reason, I am standing here giving my reply.

As you are now aware development is going on at a fast pace in the Northwest Territories with mineral exploration. Developments are happening fast and they are very interested in this area. I am not against development, I realize that these resources are required by Canada but there are problems. Some problems have solutions which are very hard to arrive at and there are many mistakes made as well so, the federal government and the territorial government will have to look very closely at its people. I would like to see them working more closely together to try and come to more understanding.

You know, all the cultures will never be united. All the cultures are diverse and looking towards the future and we would like to be involved. We would like our concerns heard and understood, but the federal government at this time has not been given any authority. We have not been given provincial status for instance and so at this time the people of the Northwest Territories and the government will have to work together to come to some understanding. The many governments in the Territories that are coming up day by day, those that will come up in the future, they are only trying to bring out the good side of the story and seem to be putting aside some of the problems, not confronting the problems face to face but we must work towards this end together now.

Problems Of The Future

The last time, in January, when we opened our session in Yellowknife, the Commissioner stated in his Address that we would have to look into the future. It was concerning the future and future rights, and the problems in the past. We are aware of the problems and we can see the problems we have had to face for the past ten years. We know the problems we have gone through and we will have to try and look at these problems and work into the future to make sure these problems are corrected but we cannot find the solutions immediately.

Now, we have a new future which is very different that we will be working together, the future we are going to make and I have asked myself often, what does the future hold for us? Will the problems of the future be more difficult tomorrow, or are the problems going to be a lot easier, will there be less problems? Does the future look bleak or does it look bright? I have asked myself these questions but I would prefer to look at the brighter side. I do not think we can tell what the future holds for us. We do know that problems will continue to arise. Now, I would like to go to another topic, the Housing Corporation.

Housing In Pangnirtung

I was involved with the Housing Corporation last summer helping the natives in Pangnirtung and they are very involved in what will be happening in the future concerning housing and also the social aspects of the Territories. I was in Pangnirtung and I was going to a meeting and I also went to the other communities in the Baffin region, this last summer. I was very happy to see what their plans were. The communities are diverse, they are different from each other. For instance, the Western Arctic where they have trees, or in this area where there are no trees, and the construction of buildings at this time are very much alike. We know that this is going to change and that the local communities themselves will be more involved with the design of their own houses. They will become involved by designing their own housing. At this time, they talked about that in Pangnirtung and I am very happy that they are finally aware of this situation and the problem we are facing in this part of the Northwest Territories.

Results Of Exploration

Now, to another topic concerning exploration. In our community, there is exploration on what is called the Polaris project. It is progressing very rapidly and there are many, many people who are getting involved in the exploration aspect of it. We know that the money has been set aside for this project but the problem may be finding people who are willing to work. Last summer many facilities and pieces of equipment arrived and now they are constructing large buildings. Economically this looks very good but how will this be for us in the future? I think in certain aspects of it, it will not really benefit us but economically it will be very good. I do not know if the federal government is concerned with what decisions they will be making regarding tankers, or the ships they will be using to ship the ore and the minerals and they will be coming to our community, passing very closely. If they are going to go ahead with that pipeline, how many trips will it be making around our community? It

may be one a year, but on the other hand, it may be once a day or maybe twice a day. For us it will drastically change our way of life in our community. I think we must keep that in mind and now I would like to go on to another subject concerning the polar bear.

Polar Bear Season Should Be Changed

In my community, and this really refers to my community, but in Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord and Nanisivik and I have brought this subject up before concerning the polar bear and brought in the political elements. I have stated that today I am aware that the population has increased and they do seem to be more aggressive than in years before. In our community, as well as in Arctic Bay, there have been many problems concerning caches. In the summer the polar bears use a lot of meat and because the polar bear cannot go out on the ice to hunt seals they must find other means of finding food. In these two communities, the season for polar bear opens in October but in Arctic Bay and Resolute Bay their season opens in January and there are no polar bears at that time. You do not see very many polar bears there because of the weather and because it is very dark. This year, I would like to look into the fact of opening the season in October but I do not know what the situation will be at this time. I know this will concern you, it will be continually brought up and be a problem in the future for us.

We know we have the right to shoot a polar bear if it is damaging our property and so forth but we know that the season really opens in January at this time and I will tell you what I know as a fact, or as the truth. Last summer we hunted seal and kept them near our houses and there was a case of a polar bear coming into the settlement and eating like a dog beside a house. This person who was immediately affected realized what his rights were and he tried to make it run away at first and he would shoot it only if it would not go away. Now, it might have been personnel from the mining company who was residing in that area. If it had happened to him he would have shot it immediately. So because of this I would like to try to resolve this immediately at this juncture.

Conference Trip To Greenland

I do not have too much more. I will go on to another area now. I will speak now in English. You are probably aware when we were going down to Greenland for the Circumpolar Conference. I was not really going over because there was nobody else willing to go when we went over there. Also we had money on the side and it was a good trip. I really enjoyed going over there, but when I got there I found out I was only an observer, not a delegate. I prepared my speech before I went there and I found out I was only an observer, not a delegate. I do not know why, but it was not really pleasant. On the way back I lost my suitcase and I have never found it yet. I lost all my clothes. This is the only suit I have now. I am going to wear this for the whole three weeks because I have nothing else to put on. The next time somebody has to go over there I think a person from the territorial Assembly should be a delegate, not an observer because as an observer you cannot say anything in that meeting. Sometimes an observer will have to leave the meeting place so that you will not hear what the delegates have to say. That was my trip to Greenland.

The last thing I would like to say a few words about is the basic differences between the different departments. I believe there are 13 or 14 departments governing the North. In the settlements or hamlets, different departments work together helping each other in the community but if you go to the headquarters for the region they are so apart. I think that is a problem that we have right now. The departments governing the North are so apart from each other. From my own experience, I was settlement manager one time and I sent a letter to headquarters, to the regional office and I made a mistake on the address. I sent it to the wrong department and there was only one office in there. They did not take it next door. They sent it to me telling me it was the wrong address, the wrong department and I had to send it again. When you go to the settlements they work together in the community, but in a lot of cases when it comes to the regional headquarters they are so far apart. When I go to the different departments where we can talk and talk maybe all night and the next day you will get the whole thing. Even through the departments, let us start working together so we can get somewhere.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say thanks now for the opportunity to speak and I hope we are going to have a good session here. Thanks again, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Are there any further replies to the Commissioner's Address? If there are no further replies, oral questions.

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Curley.

ITEM NO. 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 100-80(2): Increases In POL Prices In Keewatin

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Economic Development. Since the recent fuel and oil crisis, there has been considerable opposition to the recent increases from about 65 per cent to 74 per cent in fuel and oil products in my riding, the Keewatin district. Does the Minister have a policy announcement planned during this particular session, to offset the cost of the high cost of fuel and oil products in the Keewatin district?

Partial Return To Question 100-80(2): Increases In POL Prices In Keewatin

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The hon. Member has brought up a question of significant interest and concern to the small business community of the Keewatin and I might add, throughout the whole Northwest Territories. I do not have the details here of the federal government's proposed fuel subsidy program but I will endeavour to get them and report back to this House during this session. I will just conclude, Mr. Speaker, by thanking the hon. Member for giving me notice of asking this question. I believe it is one of great urgency for the business community in particular in the Northwest Territories in terms of their being able to continue operations during the winter and indeed in the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further oral questions? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Nerysoo was first.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 100-80(2): Increases In POL Prices In Keewatin

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to add further to the comments made by the Hon. Member Mr. George Braden and that is that the program will not only include the fuel subsidy but electrical costs as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 101-80(2): Territorial Home Owners Tax Rebate

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Local Government, the Hon. James Wah-Shee. During the last session in Baker Lake a motion to introduce a territorial property tax rebate as an incentive for home ownership in the Northwest Territories was passed unanimously. I wonder if the Minister could indicate what progress has been made towards following that direction given by this House?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Return To Question 101-80(2): Territorial Home Owners Tax Rebate

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, this year regarding home owners property tax rebates the standing committee has approved in principle regarding the tax rebates and we intend to introduce this particular measure some time in the near future.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. Patterson.

Question 102-80(2): Introduction Of Home Owners Tax Rebate

MR. PATTERSON: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The hon. Minister of Local Government, does the near future mean this session of the Assembly in Frobisher Bay?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, can you answer that?

Return To Question 102-80(2): Introduction Of Home Owners Tax Rebate

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, we intend to introduce this not at this particular session but in time for the 1981 budget year.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further oral questions? Mr. Noah.

Question 103-80(2): Hunting Of Grizzly Bears In Keewatin

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, thank you. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. The residents of Baker Lake are restless and in the Keewatin they would like to be able to get five grizzlies in Baker Lake. I wonder if you could answer as to when that would be carried out?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 103-80(2): Hunting Of Grizzly Bears In Keewatin

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. In reply to the hon. Member from the Keewatin North, yes, we will be giving you five bear tags that have been requested and the actual date will follow the amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further oral questions?

If there are no further oral questions, Item 6, questions and returns. Any written questions? Mr. Curley.

ITEM NO. 6: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, my written question is to the Minister responsible for constitutional development.

Question 104-80(2): Remarks Made By Minister To Baffin Regional Council

In view of the Minister of constitutional development's inappropriate remarks made at the Baffin Regional Council meeting recently, and I quote: "There is a very good possibility that the issue of division will be made by the Legislative Assembly. If that is the case then it will have a big implication for this particular area. Not only for Baffin but for Keewatin and big implications even for the Mackenzie Valley."

Would the Minister tell this Assembly exactly what implications he meant by giving this House specific examples? Secondly, will he outline the implications he referred to, for the Keewatin district and furthermore, how did he receive indication from my constituents about certain implications since he has not yet visited the region other than Baker Lake? Finally, did he speak to the Baffin Regional Council as the Minister responsible for constitutional development when he made such remarks about implications or as an ordinary citizen?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions and returns? Mrs. Sorensen.

Question 105-80(2): Amendments To The Oil And Gas Act

MRS. SORENSEN: My written question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Minister of Energy, the Hon. Richard Nerysoo. During the last session, it was brought to our attention that there were specific amendments to the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act which would have grave implications to the Northwest Territories with respect to its wish to, at some point in the future, manage and control its non-renewable resources. I wonder if the Minister could indicate what steps have been taken to put forth our objections to this course of events and what response has been made to date by the federal government?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further written questions? Mr. Curley.

Question 106-80(2): Reporting Relationship Of Regional Operations

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for regional operations. Could the Minister responsible for regional operations provide answers to the following questions:

Number one, who do the regional directors report to? Number two, what access do they have to elected Members of the Executive Committee? Number three, what are the terms of reference of their responsibility? Number four, will the Minister inform this House as to what role the regional directors and other top civil servants have regarding the issue of division of the Northwest Territories in their respective regions?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further written questions? We go then to Item 7, petitions. Mrs. Sorensen.

ITEM NO. 7: PETITIONS

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have Petition 6-80(2), which I would like to table. It is a petition that was circulated by the Consumers' Association of Canada, Yellowknife branch. The number of signatures on

the petition totals 1469. The following communities are represented: Pelly Bay, Yellowknife, Holman Island, Rae Lakes, Inuvik, Frobisher Bay, Fort Simpson, Resolute Bay, Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, Whitehorse and Rae. The prayer of the petition is as follows: "We the undersigned request that a freeze be placed on all power rates in the North until such time as a full and public inquiry has been made in all aspects of the Northern Canada Power Commission."

Mr. Speaker, because of our Rules I will not elaborate further other than to say that no doubt other Members as well as myself will be raising the issue of the Northern Canada Power Commission later on during this session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Are there any other petitions? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I have Petition 7-80(2), from Grise Fiord concerning a registered nurse in Grise Fiord. They would like to have a nurse move in there and the names are here also.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Are there any further petitions? There are no further petitions.

Item 8, tabling of documents.

Item 9, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM NO. 9: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to present the final report of the special committee on unity. I know that the report could very well take us to nearly the hour of 6:00 o'clock. I do not want to feel rushed, it could go to five past or something like that, so I will check the will of the House. I will move that if necessary we sit beyond the hour of daily adjournment for the purpose of hearing this special report. If that is seconded and passed then I will proceed with the report. If not, I can save it until tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry...

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: I made a motion that if necessary we sit beyond the hour of 6:00 o'clock to hear the special committee report, it may be two or three minutes past 6:00. So, if it is seconded and passed I will proceed with the report and if not I think I could wait until tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a motion to sit beyond the hour of 6:00 if necessary. Do I have a seconder? Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will second the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Any discussion?

MR. MacQUARRIE: It is non-debatable.

MR. SPEAKER: The question being called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, fellow Members I will wait a moment or two while the report is distributed to all Members. The Members have it, Mr. Clerk, and members of the press and other individuals?

Report Of The Special Committee On Unity

The special committee on unity was created by this Assembly on November 16, 1979. Its membership, Tagak Curley, Peter Fraser, Robert Sayine, Nick Sibbeston, and myself, was chosen to reflect the cultural composition of our territory, a fact which was not unimportant considering the nature of the task the committee was given.

In the midst of uncertainty concerning political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories, your committee was mandated "to try to determine the means by which a political consensus might be generated amongst the people of the Northwest Territories, and to make recommendations concerning this matter to the Assembly."

In carrying out its mandate, your committee met for discussions with leaders of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and its regional associations, with leaders of the Dene Nation, of the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories, and of the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement. It also met with the Minister for aboriginal rights and constitutional development, James Wah-Shee, and very informally with the Prime Minister's special representative for constitutional development, C.M. Drury. It received a small number of submissions, verbal and written, from other interested parties, including Members of this Assembly, and it perused those publications which are listed in Appendix 'A'.

Through its reading, its travels, and its discussions, the special committee on unity has been able to get its finger onto the pulse of northern politics. Its Members have become as well informed as it is possible for non-specialist representatives of the people to become, on the current political situation in the Northwest Territories. Being thus prepared, your committee met in Yellowknife from September 23 - 26 in order to discuss its findings, and to draw from them whatever conclusions it might.

Conclusions Drawn At Meetings

The most fundamental conclusion drawn at that meeting was based on an understanding concerning which there has been for some time a good measure of supporting evidence, but which the Members travels and discussions reinforced anew, and most unequivocally: The Northwest Territories as a geopolitical jurisdiction simply does not inspire a natural sense of identity amongst many of its indigenous peoples; its government does not enjoy in the most fundamental sense the uncompromising loyalty and commitment of significant numbers of those who are now subject to it.

This situation is not surprising considering what one might call the "accidental" nature of the jurisdiction. The territory as we largely know it today began its life as a residual terrain, quite incidentally, following the establishment of Alberta and Saskatchewan as provinces in 1905. And it came into being essentially without the consent of those who inhabited the area.

The federal government did not ask the inhabitants: Shall we keep these residual lands as one territory under a single government? It did not seek such consent, one can assume, because it felt that the inhabitants of the area were too few, and being largely unsophisticated in a political sense, were not then ready to make any judgment concerning this matter. Moreover, it undoubtedly viewed the arrangement then as an interim arrangement, to be altered when some other part or parts of the territory seemed ready for provincial status. The inhabitants did not press the issue. Either they were unaware of what had transpired, or being aware, they were in no position to object successfully. At any rate, government in the single jurisdiction thereafter evolved quietly with changing circumstances and needs. Borders were redefined in 1912. The Council was re-activated in 1921 with the discovery of oil at Norman Wells. The seat of government was moved from Ottawa to Yellowknife in 1967 so that needed services could be more effectively delivered. The Council became entirely elective in 1975.

Through all these years, with the best of intentions, government in the territory quietly unfolded along the lines of the traditional Westminster model without ever the fundamental question concerning it being asked. More and more it was assumed by many in positions of power that the Northwest Territories was indeed a single political jurisdiction, and that "its" government had been properly constituted and was being adequately developed. Those who wished could find support for this assumption in the symbols of unity that had been devised, in the ready consumption of many government services offered, and even in a certain habit of identity, based on "the way things are", that had grown up in several quarters.

Native Leaders Want Change

During these years of evolution, however, a parallel evolution was taking place. The political sophistication of the North's indigenous peoples was growing apace as well. Today, many of the leaders of these indigenous peoples, who are as politically astute, and as knowledgeable about options as political leaders anywhere, have concluded that they cannot give their consent to government as it now exists in the Northwest Territories.

Put quite simply, the leaders of native associations in the Territories, although they may have disparate objectives, have this in common: They are dissatisfied with the political status quo. They want change. They want the kind of political and economic power for their peoples that will enable them to control their own lives. They repudiate the notion that merely making the present government more efficient and more responsive to local concerns is the answer to their own concerns.

To repeat, the leaders of native associations generally are dissatisfied with the political status quo in the Northwest Territories. And theirs is a dissatisfaction that must be reckoned with, if not on moral grounds, then at least on grounds of practical politics. For if native associations in the Northwest Territories do not have the kind of positive power which might enable them to achieve all that they desire, they do have a considerable power of negation which will enable them to thwart the plans of others who may attempt to preserve the status quo, or to advance initiatives of which they do not approve.

But it is not only the leaders of native associations who wish to see change. This Assembly has already indicated its desire for change. It has released itself from the Eighth Assembly's position on political and constitutional development, a position which sought the entrenchment of the Westminster model alluded to earlier. It has adopted motions recognizing the concept of aboriginal rights, and acknowledging that aboriginal rights settlements can have important implications for political and constitutional development in the Territories. And it has created a ministry which combines dual responsibilities for aboriginal rights and constitutional development.

Government Wants Change Also

Moreover, even the federal government has given indications that it sees the need for some change. Amongst many other indicators, when C.M. Drury undertook his study at the behest of the federal government, he noted that "the appointment of the special representative itself suggested that the status quo was unsatisfactory and that constitutional change was required."

It is in this complex atmosphere of desire for change, but uncertainty as to the direction and nature of that change, that the special committee on unity has tried "to determine the means by which a political consensus might be generated amongst the peoples of the Northwest Territories." While your committee has not been able to find a consensus, or even, at the moment, to see the opportunity for consensus, favouring the continuing existence of this territory as a single jurisdiction under the present government, it has been able to formulate recommendations which it believes will receive the broadest support possible, given the complexity of existing circumstances, and which could, if adopted, lead eventually to the most just, stable and strong government achievable for northern peoples.

C.M. Drury stated in his report, and reaffirmed most strongly in a subsequent letter to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development April 22, 1980, that "the residents of the Northwest Territories, as opposed to the federal bureaucracy, should assume the major responsibility for determining the direction of political change in the Northwest Territories and the constitutional framework within which that change should proceed. Government will only work satisfactorily in the long term if it is understood and accepted by those to be governed."

Your committee agrees implicitly with Drury's statement, and has favoured this approach in formulating its recommendations. It believes that the peoples of the Northwest Territories, in co-operation with one another, must begin now to resort to appropriate means in order to define what they want for themselves, and what they can support for one another.

The major task facing all parties in this endeavor is to reconcile, in the most fruitful manner possible, at least four somewhat incongruous elements. These are: The legitimate aspirations of native peoples for political and economic power sufficient to determine their own lives; the strong Canadian democratic tradition which favours the establishment of public government institutions, with rights guaranteed on an individual rather than a collective basis; the desire of all northern residents for the greatest measure of independence from colonial-type rule by the federal bureaucracy; and finally, the geographic, demographic and economic realities of the northern situation.

Objectives Must Be Pursued And Truths Recognized

Once we residents of the North have agreed on what we want to see happen, we must pursue our political and constitutional objectives, whether these ultimately are common or disparate, with a united voice. This is the kind of consensus which can be achieved. Moreover, its achievement does not depend upon the disposition or favour of any outside party. To create the atmosphere of trust in which discussions amongst northern peoples can be initiated and carried out successfully, the special committee believes that certain steps are necessary.

First, this Assembly must make explicit an understanding which is already implicit in a number of its previous actions. That is, it must formally acknowledge the peculiar situation in the Territories which prevents the simplistic approach of "we are all northerners" from succeeding where political development is concerned.

This may seem difficult to do in a country which declares itself loath to draw distinctions based on race; difficult that is, until it is remembered that the Government of Canada has dealt differently with indigenous peoples for more than a hundred years, and British colonial policy did the same before that. But whether it is difficult or not, it must be done because reality demands that it be done. One truth about the Northwest Territories is that its population in the majority is native. A second truth is that there is a strong natural identity prevalent amongst the various northern native peoples inspired by common race, language and lifestyle. These elements give rise to common goals and the desire to achieve these goals by common action. A third truth is that distinctions based on race and cultural origin are already a fact of everyday life in the Northwest Territories.

People acting in concert to achieve common goals, where a natural identity based on race, language and lifestyle prompts them to act in concert, is an entirely understandable phenomenon. The fact that one of the common attributes in this equation is race does not at all mean that the pursuit of such collective action is racism, and it certainly should not be labelled as such. As the committee has already noted, the policies of the Government of Canada have recognized and fostered the distinctiveness of Canada's indigenous peoples from the very beginning. It is not surprising, therefore, that such peoples, over and above their natural inclination to work together, should and will, collectively seek real political and economic power. Consequently, to be successful, political development initiatives in the Northwest Territories simply must take account of the aspirations of indigenous peoples.

Your committee recognizes, however, a further truth: That there is also in the Northwest Territories a significant presence of "others", predominantly white, who are here legally as citizens of Canada, who are here in good faith, and who have legitimate interests and aspirations of their own. Political development in the Northwest Territories, to be just, must acknowledge the interest of these "others", particularly those who have demonstrated a commitment to northern living, that is either who were born and raised here, or who have resided in the Northwest Territories for five or more years.

Length Of Residency A Factor

While it is not now customary within Canada to draw arbitrary distinctions of residency greater than six months or a year, the extremely high level of transiency in the North pleads a special case. Past experience indicates that many "others" have no intention of remaining in the North; their visits average only two or three years. Your committee firmly believes that such people should not have the right to determine the fundamental shape of northern society since it is not reasonably demonstrated that they will be around to experience the consequences. Considering all of this, your committee recommends:

1. That this Assembly, recognizing the Dene, Metis and Inuit peoples within the Northwest Territories present boundaries, as well as a significant presence of "others" either who were born in the Northwest Territories, or who have demonstrated a commitment to northern living by having resided here for five or more years, acknowledge that political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories cannot proceed successfully without due attention being paid to the expressed interests of these communities of people.

So as to leave no room for error, let it be clearly understood that the special committee on unity supports the federal government's position that, regardless of what factors must be taken into account, in the end, public government must result from public consultation; that all residents of the Northwest Territories must have the opportunity to comment on political development proposals, and that jurisdiction finally will be placed in the hands of governments that are public governments, responsible directly to the people without regard to race. But the committee would modify this stand in conformity with a thought expressed in a Drury background paper, Rights and Politics in the Canadian Setting. The author suggests and your committee agrees, that for the Northwest Territories "political institutions based upon individual rights cannot be considered fixed and therefore wholly legitimate until after the needs of various collectivities have been assured." The various "collectivities" of native peoples have special needs. Means must be found that will assure the satisfaction of these needs.

While we are on the topic of committee support for federal positions, let it also be clearly understood that your committee agrees with the federal government that in all questions concerning political and constitutional development and aboriginal rights claims there is no question about the overriding sovereignty of the Crown in all areas of Canada.

Assembly Must Change

To further enhance an atmosphere in which productive discussions can take place amongst the peoples of the North, perhaps it is time to speak the unspeakable. This Assembly, considering that the present government is in many respects, and for many people, an unwanted child, an accidental legacy, must openly declare that the Government of the Northwest Territories as it exists today is not a treasure to be preserved at all costs, nor even clung to, and only grudgingly modified. Your committee recommends:

2. That this Assembly formally express what has been implied in its previous motions dealing with aboriginal rights and constitutional development, namely that it regards the present geopolitical structure of the Northwest Territories, including the institutions and practices of government, to be an interim arrangement, subject to such change as may be negotiated by the leaders of the Northwest Territories peoples, and subsequently affirmed by the peoples themselves.

In taking such a bold step, and a measure of boldness is certainly required at this difficult time in our history, this Assembly will signify its utter openness to change; its willingness to negotiate a new constitution for the Northwest Territories in both the legal and the more general sense of that term. This recommendation has been made in the full knowledge that it is the federal government which has the ultimate constitutional responsibility for political development in the Northwest Territories. Nevertheless, it is also made in the firm belief that it is we, the people of the North, who have the right, and if there is to be successful political development, who have the obligation, to reach agreement amongst ourselves, and then to call attention to that agreement in our representations to the federal government.

Assembly To Declare Objectives

Finally, as a third measure to create the necessary atmosphere of trust for ongoing political development in the Northwest Territories, your committee recommends:

3. That this Assembly declare as its objective in the area of political and constitutional development the establishment of stable, strong and effective government for all peoples of the Northwest Territories, founded upon the consent of the governed.

The special committee has already made the point that the Government of the Northwest Territories was set up, and evolved, without the full understanding and consent of the indigenous peoples. Now that they do understand, full consent is denied. Loyalty and commitment, hence the very stability of a jurisdiction, rely upon consent. A government must pay for imposition with continual dissatisfaction, tension and significant dissent. We in the Northwest Territories encounter them every day. Let us make the commitment, without trying to determine in advance the number or size or composition of jurisdictions, that this Assembly at least will not seek to impose, on any community of people, government that is not wanted.

In making this commitment, however, the Assembly would not, of course, wish to convey to anyone the impression that it can guarantee a supportive federal response to northern initiatives should they be successful, nor on the other hand can it guarantee that the federal response will not be impatient and unilateral should northern initiatives fail. The question of consent now raises an important matter of considerable concern. Members of this Assembly are well aware that the position of the leadership of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada is to deny consent to the Government of the Northwest Territories. Instead, it proposes a division of the Territories, and the establishment of a new northeastern Arctic territory which it calls "Nunavut".

Territorial Division Not Confined

In its inquiry into this matter, your committee encountered a very firm determination on ITC's part to see its proposal through to realization. Its determination is of such a measure as to present a serious obstacle to the continued unity of the present territory. Moreover, your committee found that support for division was not confined to ITC and Inuit. Division has other supporters both in the East and the West. In fact, the momentum behind the proposal is presently so compelling that your committee believes that the question of division can no longer be ignored.

Perhaps too it should not be considered so reluctantly as the foregoing might suggest. It must be recalled that the Carrothers Commission, of which our present Commissioner was a member, considered the question of division in its 1966 report. It then stated that "the strongest case against division at this time... is that division would be prejudicial to the political interests of the indigenous peoples of the Northwest Territories as Canadian citizens." It further stated, "we believe that division in some form and at some stage is probably inevitable, for the greatest and immutable factor militating toward

division is sheer size; but we believe that the passage of a decade will make a tremendous difference to the political competence of the indigenous peoples...". Finally, it said, "There is a cost factor in the issue of division, although we do not consider it to be a deciding factor. Had we concluded that division was proper at this time it is unlikely that we would have recommended against it because of the added cost of operating two territorial governments."

Today, some 14 years later, we have evidence of the political competence of indigenous peoples; indeed, we have the representatives of and indigenous people themselves calling for division! For this reason, and for reasons noted earlier, the question of division must be dealt with now.

But while your committee believes that the issue of division must be addressed forthwith, it also believes that a final and perhaps irrevocable decision should not be taken in haste. Apart from the well documented support in favour of division, your committee also found some prima facie opposition amongst Inuit, some uncertainty as to which way to go, and also some confusion concerning the issue. It had, of course, no means of actually determining the extent of the support for "Nunavut".

Major Division A Possibility

Because of this, and because it believes that the decision to be taken is of such a fundamental nature that it should be referred directly to the people, your committee recommends:

4. That this Assembly declare itself immediately to be receptive to the possibility of a major division of the present Northwest Territories into an eastern and a western territory, subject to the expressed will, by public debate and by referendum, of a majority of the people of the northeastern Arctic showing preference for the establishment of a new northeastern Arctic territory.

Your committee made this recommendation in the full knowledge of C.M. Drury's thoughtful comments on division, and has tried to some extent to heed him. Those who have read his report alone may be forgiven for concluding that Mr. Drury wishes to see the question of division held in abeyance while exhaustive studies are carried out, and while extensive measures to make tolerable a united Northwest Territories are undertaken. However, in his subsequent letter to the Minister, while he still obviously wishes to see an informed decision taken on the matter, he does say that his report suggests "that the Council should determine the appropriate forum for a northern consideration of the question of division as soon as possible. This is a recognition of the urgency of reaching a resolution on this constitutional issue."

At any rate, whatever one may conclude about Mr. Drury's preferences, your committee believes that addressing the question of division should not be deferred any longer. It recognizes that loyalty is largely an affair of the heart. Unfortunately, or not, as one is disposed to think, loyalty is not inclined to wait patiently to be persuaded by clinical demonstrations, nor is it particularly susceptible to "proofs". It will rest where it will.

As for Mr. Drury, your committee respects his obvious intelligence, and believes that many of his suggestions will have application when the details of constitutional development are addressed in one or more northern territories, whether or not the input is acknowledged as Drurian.

Referendum On Division Should Take Place

Now to return to the question at hand, if there is to be a referendum who should administer it? When should it be held? Who should vote? What question should be asked? Having considered all of those things, your committee recommends:

5. That this Assembly ask the federal government to conduct, subject to the ongoing concurrence of this Assembly, a referendum, not sooner than one year, and not later than two years from this date, concerning the question of division of the Northwest Territories, and further:
 - (a) that the referendum ask, in essence, the following question: (i) Do you favour the establishment of a new territory in the northeastern Arctic, the assumption being that your committee and its environs will be part of the new territory if it is established?
 - (b) that this question be referred to residents of those communities of the northeastern Arctic which indicate by petition, five per cent of the population, that they would like to be polled; and
 - (c) that all citizens residing in those communities to be polled, who are 18 years of age or older, and who have lived in the Northwest Territories for five or more years, be entitled to vote in this referendum.

It will no doubt be noted that "Nunavut" has not been used in this suggested wording. The reasons are several. "Nunavut" is a specific government proposal. It is possible that some northeastern Arctic residents would like to see a division of the Territories, but are not prepared to support that particular proposal, or that proposal without modifications. Moreover, this Assembly at this time should not undertake to identify one particular government proposal as the one that northeastern Arctic residents should vote upon.

In addition, while "Nunavut" is advanced as a public government proposal, it has not as yet received input from the general public, nor has it been the subject of negotiation between the federal government and representatives of the general populations of the northeastern Arctic. Once that has occurred, it is entirely conceivable that "Nunavut" could appear on a subsequent ballot.

Your committee has recommended 18 years of age as the voting age because that is the voting age in federal elections. And it has recommended that only citizens of the northeastern Arctic should vote in the referendum because it believes that that is a decision for those to make who will have to live with the consequences. Finally, it has recommended that the federal government administer the referendum because it has ultimate legal authority for political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories, and because the Government of the Northwest Territories has a credibility problem with native associations.

Assembly To Take Action

Believing, however, that initiative in the area of political and constitutional development should remain with the people of the North, and not knowing how the federal government will respond to the previous recommendation, your committee recommends:

6. That this Assembly make arrangements to conduct its own referendum on division if the federal government delays unduly, or absolutely refuses to act.

Although this exercise could have no legal validity, it could serve as a very useful expression of opinion, and serve to clarify the situation in the northeastern Arctic for all parties concerned.

Needless to say, your committee believes that a public decision concerning division should not, as Mr. Drury puts it, "proceed in the abstract". It has called for a referendum between one and two years away so that there will be time for adequate, informed debate prior to the public's expression of choice. The committee also believes that during this interval steps should be taken to ensure that factual information, even though it may not be a final determinant, is available to those who will have to make the choice. Therefore, your committee recommends:

7. That this Assembly ask the Executive Committee of the Government of the Northwest Territories to set up, subject to the approval of this Assembly, an independent body to prepare an objective study of the impact of division upon the Territories as a whole, and upon its several parts and their peoples, and to disseminate the information resulting from this study as widely as seems to be necessary well in advance of any public decision making;

And further, that this Assembly schedule debates on the question of division, and on constitutional development generally, at least twice before the referendum.

Your committee recommends:

8. That this Assembly, if the referendum is answered affirmatively in sufficient northeastern Arctic territory, ask the Government of Canada to establish such a territory independent of the present Northwest Territories, its government being the subject of negotiation between the Government of Canada and the people of said territory.

Such a request would constitute a formal indication that this government is willing to relinquish its authority over the area in question. And adopting this recommendation now would be an indication to the people of the northeastern Arctic of the Assembly's good faith in this matter. Alternatively, if the referendum were answered negatively everywhere, or affirmatively in such a few, scattered communities as to preclude the possibility of a viable territory, then presumably the region's representatives would automatically be included in ongoing constitutional talks amongst other peoples of the Northwest Territories. Indeed, such representatives might wish to be included in the talks, on a tentative basis, from the moment the talks begin.

All Peoples Should Come Together

Because of the relatively small numbers of people in the Northwest Territories, and because of the relative strength of the federal government with whom the North's people must deal in political and economic affairs, the special committee on unity believes that it is in the best interests of all people, at least in the Western Arctic, if not throughout the territory, to try to remain together in the largest single geopolitical jurisdiction possible commensurate with the consent of the governed. It believes that representatives of all peoples at the invitation and initiative of this Assembly, should come together to explore political and constitutional development alternatives, to discuss them, and finally to reach some agreement concerning them. Whether the result is a single government constituted very carefully to safeguard native interests, a single government with several regional governments under it, holding legislative authority in matters of immediate concern to the people they represent, a loose federation of semi-autonomous territories, or something quite different from any of these, it should receive final confirmation from each community of people by means of referendum. If the detailed result of this process is not urgently required, nevertheless the process itself should begin at once.

Your committee has reason to believe that leaders of the native associations would respond favourably to such an initiative from this Assembly, were it first to establish an atmosphere of trust, and therefore your committee recommends:

9. That this Assembly immediately take the necessary steps to establish a constitutional development committee, comprised of five Members, and including the Minister for aboriginal rights and constitutional development, mandated to explore with the various peoples of the Northwest Territories who

may wish to continue to remain in association with one another, and to reach with them if possible, agreement concerning the identification of processes and the creation of mechanisms for future political and constitutional development;

And further, that this Assembly direct its constitutional development committee specifically to explore the possibility of holding a constitutional convention which would include representation from all peoples in the area defined above, as well as from this Assembly, and which would have as its primary aim the creation of a constitution for the largest and strongest possible geopolitical jurisdiction.

Again, to reduce the possibility of misunderstanding, let it be clearly stated that the constitutional development committee represents a transitional step. Its job would be to deal with means and not with ends. It would be empowered to contact parties of interest and to seek agreement with them, subject to ratification by the Assembly, on acceptable means for furthering political and constitutional development amongst those peoples of the Territories who wish to remain in association with one another. But it would not be empowered to begin shaping a constitution.

Your committee has recommended that the Minister for aboriginal rights and constitutional development should be a part of this proposed committee so that all initiatives on behalf of this Assembly and its Executive are certain to be co-ordinated. Further, your committee believes that the initiative in the area of political and constitutional development should be with the Assembly as a whole, and not with its Executive Committee.

Recommendation Taken To Ottawa

In order to impress upon the federal government the wishes of the Ninth Assembly, which reflects more or less faithfully the composition of northern peoples, and perhaps their thinking concerning political and constitutional development in the North, your committee recommends:

10. That this Assembly select a delegation to deliver by hand to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Minister responsible for federal-provincial relations, and to a meeting of the federal parliament's standing committee on northern affairs, all such of the foregoing recommendations as may be approved by it.

The process of trying to arrive at some agreement amongst northern peoples with respect to political and constitutional development is sure to be long, arduous, confusing at times, frustrating, and finally, not at all guaranteed to succeed. But the prospect for the long term of strong, stable government which has the consent of the people is worth every conscientious effort.

The special committee on unity is not labouring under the illusion that the steps it has recommended in this report are adequate to lead the North out of the political and constitutional woods that it finds itself in. But these steps are a beginning. At worst, they will serve as a focus for discussion on this tremendously complex area of general concern. At best, they will point a direction which, with the necessary application of effort, skill and virtue, will eventually lead to success. They are, perhaps, "the means by which a political consensus might be generated amongst the people of the Northwest Territories."

Having nearly completed its mandate, the special committee on unity will soon dissolve. Its Members are grateful to the Ninth Assembly for its confidence in assigning such an important task, and are pleased to have had this unique opportunity of serving the people of the North. They would also like to express their sincere thanks to the two Clerk Assistants, first Pieter de Vos, and then David Hamilton, who served the committee so very well.

Motion That Unity Committee Report Be Received, Carried

At this time, I will move, seconded by the hon. Member for Mackenzie Liard, that this report be now received and moved into committee of the whole on October 29, for thorough discussion, and for the possible adoption of its recommendations.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Question being called. All those in favour. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

By way of information, a reminder again that at 6:30 p.m., at the school, we are going to be a little tight on time, but a feast and entertainment. There will be a caucus meeting tomorrow morning at 9:45 a.m., with the bus time the same from the hotel. Mr. Clerk, the orders of the day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, October 23, 1980, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Gordon Robertson Education Centre.

1. Prayer
2. Continuing Replies to the Commissioner's Address
3. Oral Questions
4. Questions and Returns
5. Petitions
6. Tabling of Documents
7. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
8. Notices of Motion
9. Motions
10. Introduction of Bills for First Reading
11. Second Reading of Bills
12. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and Other Matters: Motion 20-80(2); Sessional Paper 3-80(2); Information Items 1-80(2), 2-80(2), 4-80(2), 5-80(2), 6-80(2), 18-80(2); Report of the Standing Committee on Finance; Tabled Documents 6-80(2), 12-80(2); Sessional Paper 4-80(2)
13. Orders of the Day

ITEM NO. 17: ADJOURNMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., October 23, 1980, at the Gordon Robertson Education Centre.

---ADJOURNMENT

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